

Esteemed members of the Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. I am a resident of New London, a Shore Line East and Metro-North rider, and Secretary of the state's CT Commuter Rail Council.

I wanted to give the members of Appropriations Committee some background on Shore Line East service so that you can make informed decisions on budget priorities in this tight budget year.

As you may be aware, CTDOT has warned that if the Governor's transportation funds for Shore Line East service were reduced, service would be cut to 50% of current levels.

Shore Line East is part of the "branch line" system that connects to the "main line" Metro-North Railroad that takes passengers from New Haven to New York City. The four CT branch lines are New Canaan, Danbury, Waterbury and Shore Line East.

Shore Line East connects New London, Old Saybrook, Westbrook, Clinton, Madison, Guilford, Branford to New Haven, and allows residents of nearby inland towns to park and ride to major work hubs like Stamford, Norwalk and New York City.

Shore Line East ridership for 2016 was over a million people.

The current service levels (number of trains per day) are as follows, with "+" indicating Amtrak trains that allow Shore Line East commuters:

	Weekday		Weekend	
Station	Eastbound	Westbound	Eastbound	Westbound
New London	6 + 5	7 + 3	8	8
Old Saybrook	17 + 5	17 + 2	11	10
Westbrook	17	17	11	10

Clinton	12	8	6	4
Madison	12	8	6	4
Guilford	17	17	11	10
Branford	12	8	6	3
State Street	13	16	10	9
New Haven	17 + 5	17 + 3	11	10

Shore Line East service has proven a successful and safe transportation investment, especially the addition of weekend service to New London. As you can see in the data, New London ridership has more than tripled since 2011.

New London Ridership Data					
Year	Total	Weekday	Weekend	Market Share	Notes
2010	12,676	12,676	0	Unknown	No line ridership data
2011	21,276	21,276	0	3.5%	
2012	30,758	30,758	0	4.9%	Amtrak cross-honoring begins May 2012
2013	49,127	35,567	13,560	7.5%	Weekend service begins June 2013
2014	69,633	44,844	24,789	10.6%	
2015	71,356	43,373	27,983	11.8%	

Shore Line East is a valuable addition to the state's transportation picture, is an economic driver, and eases congestion on the busy I-95 shoreline route. In my experience on the CT Commuter Rail Council, I have listened to many riders, business owners and town leaders speak to the value of Shore Line East to their lives and livelihood.

I thank you for your consideration.

Stephanie Gregerman
New London